[23rd July 1953

(b) whether it is a fact that college students of the V.R. College, Nellore, have been and are subjected to Police surveillance for having participated in anti-detention agitation?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—"(a) The answer to the first part of this clause is 'No'. The second part does not arise.

"(b) No."

Irrigation under the Peruvalai and Ayyan channels, Lalgudi taluk.

* 936 Q.—SRI N. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether any representation was received from the ryots of Lalgudi taluk, Tiruchirappalli district, regarding closure of several irrigation sluices in the upper riparian region of Peruvalai and Ayyan channels; and also the special treatment to certain lands and the consequent loss to others and if so, what action has been taken on the same?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Several representations against closure of the upper sluices of the channels were received. Owing to the failure of the monsoon and the unprecedented low flows in the Cauvery during the last irrigation season, the available supplies had to be distributed equitably through a turn system, in the working of which the upper sluices of the channels had to be closed for some days in the week to pass down supplies to the tail-end ayacut. Complaints about insufficiency of supplies to certain lands and special treatment of others were looked into and were found to be baseless in most cases and relief was given where necessary."

SRI N. RAJAGOPAL :—" May I know what the number of days is on which the sluices were closed and whether any favouritism was shown to certain persons; if so, Sir, may I know why? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I have already said that no favouritism was shown and wherever complaints were taken to the notice of the authorities, they were examined and they were found to be baseless and not valid."

Supervisor in the Highways Department in South Kanara.

* 937 Q.—SRI M. S. MOGRAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether a supervisor of the Highways Department was posted to the Panchayat department in South Kanara;

(b) whether he has joined duty so far; and

(c) if not, what arrangements have been made by the Government to post a substitute?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) Yes.

23rd July 1953]

" (b) & (c) As the supervisor first posted to South Kanara district for panchayat works in that district is now on leave, another supervisor has been posted in his place. He is expected to join duty shortly."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have received any representations against the extraordinary delay in investigating panchayat works?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir, hitherto all panchayats had to depend upon the Highways Department and other departments and there were some delays but now some arrangement is being made and supervisors are being posted for attending to panchayat works."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of appointing a separate engineering establishment for each district to carry on panchayat works speedily, efficiently and effectively?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Something towards that end is now being made."

Administration of forests.

* 938 Q.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the instances of serious damage caused to the forests under the direct control of the Forest department and the suggestions made in the course of the speeches on Forest Demand by Sri Kune Rao, M.L.A. (page 35 of debates, dated 23rd July 1952), Sri K. R. Viswanadham, M.L.A. (page 31, dated 23rd July 1952) and Sri Seethi Sahib, M.L.A. (page 36, dated 23rd July 1952) of the Madras Assembly Debates— 9-10 a.m

(a) whether the Government have examined the question of entrusting forest administration to forest panchayats;

(b) whether the Government have considered the question of the constitution of District and Taluk Committees of non-officials to check corruption and abuses in Forest department, and if so, with what result; and

(c) whether the Government have examined the question of restoring forest concessions enjoyed by the ryots under the zamindaris and which were withdrawn on the taking over of such forests under the Forest department, and if so, with what result?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (a) No, Sir.

" (b) The question is under the consideration of the Government.

"(c) All the privileges enjoyed by the ryots under zamindari have been restored to them except in the matter of goat-browsing which has been prohibited. A Press Note to this effect has also been issued for the information of the public."